

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

OES-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-10 /114 W

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0328
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1613

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FI

SUBJECT: BOYCOTT OF CONVENIENCE FLAG VESSEL

1. A TWO-DAY BOYCOTT OF THE CYPRIOT FLAG FREIGHTER ELPIDA BY THE FINNISH SEAMEN'S UNION OVER BACK WAGES FOR HER CREW ENDED JULY 30 WHEN THE ELPIDA'S GREEK OWNERS GAVE IN TO UNION DEMANDS.

2. SHIP, WHOSE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTWORKERS FEDERATION (ITF) CONTRACT EXPIRED JANUARY 31, 1976, HAD BEEN CHARTERED BY FINNISH STATE GRANARY, TO CARRY WHEAT TO ETHIOPIA UNDER DEVELOPMENT AID CREDIT AGREEMENT. HALF OF 11,000 TON CARGO HAD BEEN LOADED IN NAANTALI HARBOR WHEN UNION MEMBERS REFUSED CONTINUE LOADING UNLESS OWNERS COMPENSATED CREW FOR LOW WAGES PAID SINCE CONTRACT EXPIRED AND PAID ITF DUES FOR CREW, CONSISTING OF GREEK AND OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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OWNERS' REP MET WITH UNION AND AGREED ON SETTLEMENT

CLOSE TO UNION'S DEMAND, ESTIMATED BY FINNISH PRESS AT
OVER 900,000 FMK. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS LARGE PROPORTION
OF THE 1.3 MILLION FMK CHARTER FEE FOR THE SHIPMENT.

3. CASE AND ITS RESOLUTION APPEAR SIMILAR TO SEVERAL
PREVIOUS FLAG OF CONVENIENCE BOYCOTTS BY FINNS IN RECENT
PAST AS SEAMEN'S UNION, WHICH HAS FOUGHT CONVENIENCE FLAG
SYSTEM FOR YEARS, SEEKS ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ITF STANDARDS
BY SUCH VESSELS CALLING AT FINNISH PORTS. PARTIES WERE
JOINED IN THIS INSTANCE BY STATE GRANARY, A FINNISH STATE
ORGANIZATION UNDER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH WAS UNDER
SOME PRESSURE TO MOVE THE WHEAT AND EASE BOTTLENECK IN
FLOW OF BUMPER FINNISH GRAIN HARVEST.
HOUSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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